

FLD 460

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>	25X1
SUBJECT	The Burgas, Sliven, and Ruse Prisons	DATE DISTR.	30 November 1953	
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25X1 THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

Nevrokop prison, pages 2 and 3; sketch pages 7 and 8.

Central prison in Sliven, pages 3 and 4; sketch pages 9, 10, and 11.

Ruse prison, pages 4, 5, 6, and 7; sketch pages 9 and 12.

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The Nevrokop Prison (June-November 1948, personal observation; see sketch, Page 8)

1. The Nevrokop Okoliya prison is located in the southern part of the city near the post office and not far from the stream which runs through the town. It is a 1-story building (an old Turkish prison) painted a light yellow. The entire prison is surrounded by a limestone wall four meters high and approximately 80 centimeters thick. The windows of the cells are approximately 80 x 120 centimeters, reinforced by iron bars of various thicknesses. The doors are of wood with a thin sheet of flat iron on the edges; they are furnished with peepholes.
2. Political prisoners are kept in the prison only during the investigation period until their cases have been examined, after which time they are transferred to prisons in the interior of the country to serve their sentences. This prison is used mostly for criminals. The prison has five cells and two solitary cells. With the utmost crowding no more than 120 prisoners could be accommodated. There is no section for women.

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4. During 1948 the prison schedule was not too bad. Food could be received from home regularly. The receiving and writing of letters was regulated in accordance with the general rules for correspondence; for persons with up to 10 years sentence: receive two letters, send two letters, and receive one visit every three months; and for those with sentences over 10 years, the same number, only for six months.

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5. The prison was guarded by two militia posts: one in front of the gate and one at the tower. In general there were no more than seven militia men at the prison. Part of the detail was used for mobile duty in the prison court. The prison administration was quartered in a building outside the walls. In addition to the main building, in the court of the prison there were two smaller structures which were used principally as workshops (carpentry and iron work) and also as guard quarters and as penthouses for the prison hacks and wagons.

The Central Prison in Sliven (November 1948 to 5 July 1949; personal observation; see sketch, Pages 10 and 11).

6. This was formerly a military prison. It is located in the northern section of town, approximately five meters south of the former textile factory of Ivan KALPAZANOV. A river runs along the western side of the prison, and its southern side is bordered by private buildings. Approximately 800 meters to the east is the railroad station. The prison was built in 1934, originally as a macaroni factory, but was subsequently made into a prison by Kimon GEORGIEV. The building has five stories. In the prison area, in addition to the central building, there are the following small structures: a modern bathhouse, workshops, storehouses, an information office, an interview room, a guard room, and also a square area for walks. The administrative personnel are located in a separate 2-story building situated on the eastern side outside of the prison enclosure. The walls of the central building are approximately 80 cms thick. The windows are all uniform and are approximately 100 x 70 cms in size; they are barred with iron bars of a uniform size and thickness: four vertical and two horizontal. The doors are made of large planks with iron corner frames and can be locked with a key and with iron bars. The doors are equipped with peepholes.
7. There was no women's section in the prison as of 5 July 1949. In general, the prison is divided into eight sections plus the solitary cells. The first and second sections are for the criminal prisoners. The third and fourth are for political and criminal prisoners (prisoners in this section authorized to work in the workshops). Of the other four sections one was used as an investigation section and the remainder were for political prisoners. The prison had approximately 200 cells of which about two thirds are single cells and the rest large wards. There was also an infirmary in the prison.
8. Life in the Sliven prison was considerably better than that in Ruse because the orders from the Ministry of the Interior were scrupulously observed. Arbitrary measures were very rare. However, the food here was very unsatisfactory. No breakfast was given, and often for lunch and supper there was only tea. Usually the food consisted of cabbage and chick peas. Prisoners were permitted two short walks a day: one hour in the morning and one in the evening. Beatings were very rare. The solitary cells, however, were unbearable. In these cells half of a floor was open, and under it there was a ditch through which ran excrement from the toilets of the prison. In these cells the prisoners were kept no longer than 24 hours before being returned to their regular cells. There were neither beds nor Narove in the cells, and prisoners slept on the floor. In winter no stoves were allotted, even in the coldest weather.

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10. In this prison [] was with the same prisoners as in the Ruse Prison since he was assigned with those of the "Legionnaire Group," and from Sliven they were all sent together to Ruse Prison.

The Ruse Prison (5 July 1949 to 3 April 1951; personal observation; see sketch, Page 12).

11. The prison is located in the center of the city just west of the Okoliya Peoples Court building, near the Post Office. It is an old Turkish prison and includes an area of approximately 70 x 40 meters surrounded by a wall 4 meters thick. The prison is a dirty white color. The prison administrative service is quartered in two small buildings situated outside the wall. In addition to the prison the following small structures are also in the area: a kitchen, warehouse, barber shop, visiting room, shoe shop, book-binding shop, and a section for women. Concerning the arrangement of these buildings, see the sketch on Page 12. The prison has no separate quarters for prisoners being investigated as opposed to those already serving terms, nor is there any separation between political and criminal prisoners. The men's section of the prison includes eight wards and four solitary cells.

12. The prison walls are built of a limestone mixture of stone and bricks approximately 80 cms thick. The windows are approximately 60 x 80 centimeters and are protected by iron bars of various shapes and thicknesses. Every cell has a double door. The door nearest the corridor is of huge planks four centimeters thick, set with iron around the lock. The door has a peep-hole. Right behind this door in the interior of the room there are wooden bars which serve as a flimsy door; this cannot be locked and only half closes.

13. By the utmost crowding the prison could hold no more than 500 prisoners in the men's section. Each ward is approximately 8 x 4 meters and houses approximately 70 persons. [] there were no set regulations concerning the prison schedule, and everything was decided according to the whims of the prison director. In addition to this, caprices of every kind were perpetrated indiscriminately. For example, drinking parties from town had free access to the prison and were permitted to beat whomever they liked. No order was maintained in regard to receiving packages or mail, the dispatch of work parties, or concerning the prisoners' daily walk. From the above, to which might be added the extremely poor food, it is understandable that the prison life was severely criticized. The criticism was aimed solely at the prison director who had unlimited rights to do whatever he wanted with the prisoners. The prison had a bath but it was almost never used. Thus, during the two years he spent in prison [] took one bath.

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14. In winter stoves were installed in the wards; however, fuel was never provided. There were no beds in the wards, and the prisoners slept on wooden benches (Narove). The floors were cement, and when there were many prisoners, part of them were obliged to sleep on the cement. Words cannot describe the health and hygienic conditions in the prison. There was no prison doctor, nor when the need arose was a doctor ever summoned from town. In cases of sickness, medicine which the prisoners had were used when they were available. Otherwise, no one paid any attention to the sick person.

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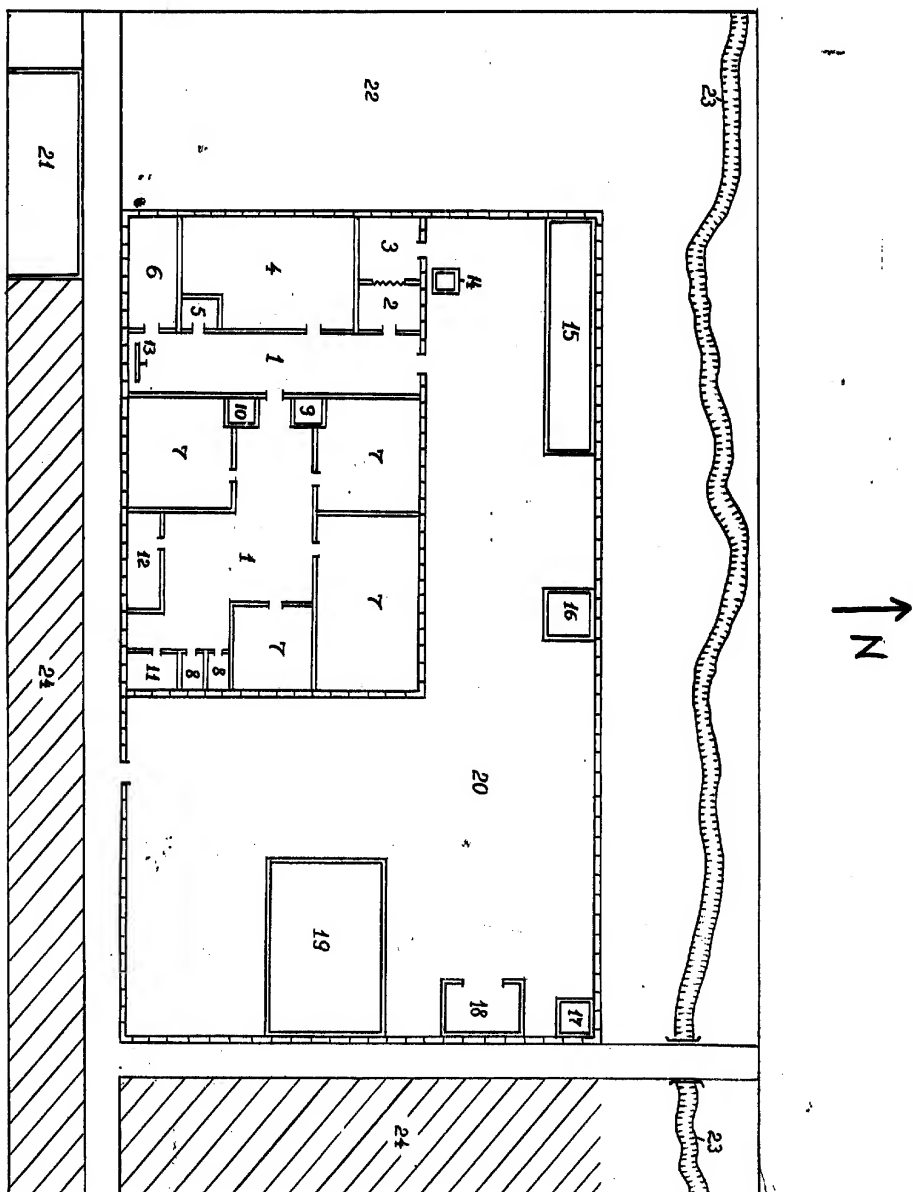
15. During the time that [] was in the prison, two prisoners died because of the unbearable routine and the cruelties:
- a. "Mulleri," son of a Greek from Piraeus and a Sicilian mother; sentenced to death for spying on behalf of England; however, while his sentence was being reviewed by the Superior Court, he died of cold and hunger.
 - b. A former national representative of the BZNS who died in September or October 1949, after being struck in the area of the heart with a black-jack (small sack filled with sand).
16. The prison was guarded by three militia guard posts; two were inside the prison and one outside by the gate.
17. The prison had the following means of transportation: one 9-ton diesel 25X1 "Byucing" (sic), one light truck "Kapiten," and two cars.
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Legend for the Sliven Central Prison (Page 10)

(Scale: 1:10,000)

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Prison | 6. Box (Cardboard) Workshop |
| 2. Administrative Building | 7. Bath |
| 3. Guard Station | 8. Blacksmith Shop |
| 4. Interview Room | 9. Storeroom for Wood |
| 5. Information Office | 10. Sentry Posts |
| | 11. Area for Walks |

Legend for the Sliven Central Prison (Page 11)Seventh Section

(Scale: 1:500)

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Opening Between Floors | 7. Cells |
| 2. Corridors | 8. Guards |
| 3. Stairs | 9. Washroom |
| 4. Barbershop | 10. Toilet |
| 5. Room for Guard on Duty | 11. Corridor |
| 6. Chief Guard | 12. Corridor |

Legend for the Ruse Prison (Page 12)

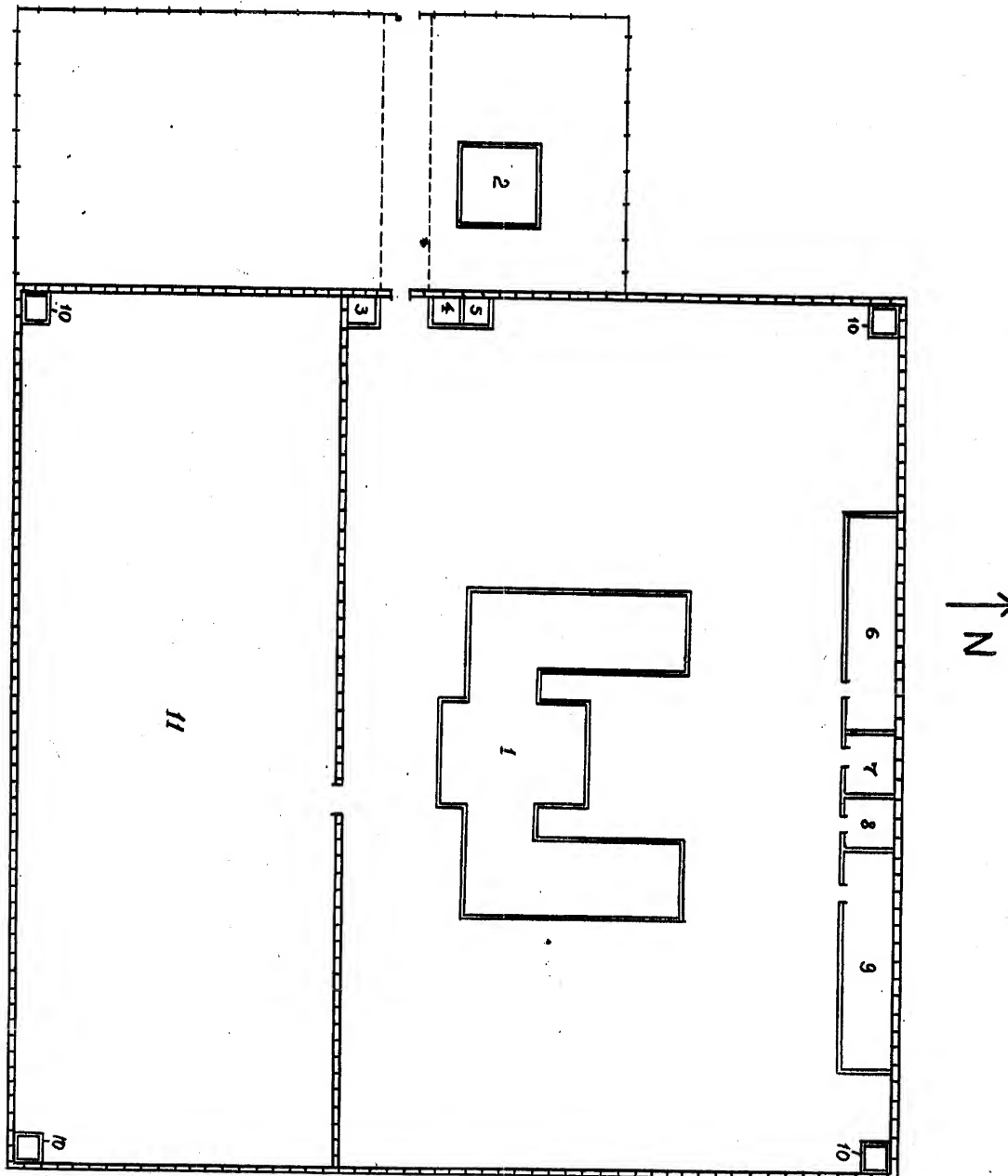
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- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Cells | 9. Interview Room |
| 2. Corridors | 10. Central Office |
| 3. Toilets | 11. Office |
| 4. Bath | 12. Women's Section |
| 5. Kitchen | 13. Bakery |
| 6. Storeroom | 14. Bindery |
| 7. Guard Duty Room | 15. Shoe Shop |
| 8. Barbershop | 16. Okoliya Peoples Council (sic) |
| | 17. Sentry Post |

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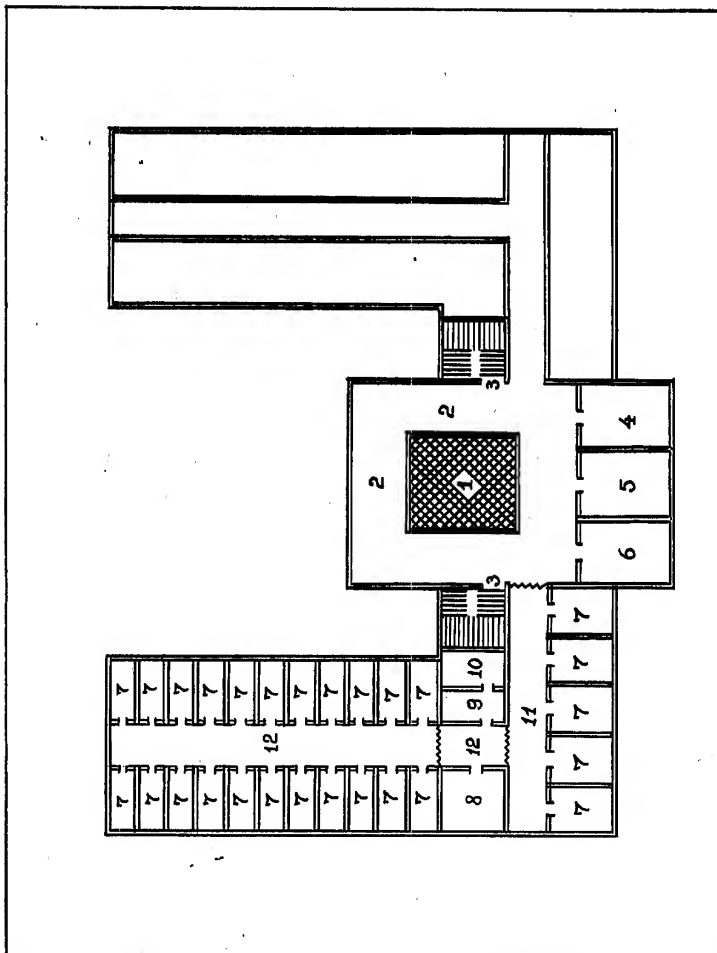
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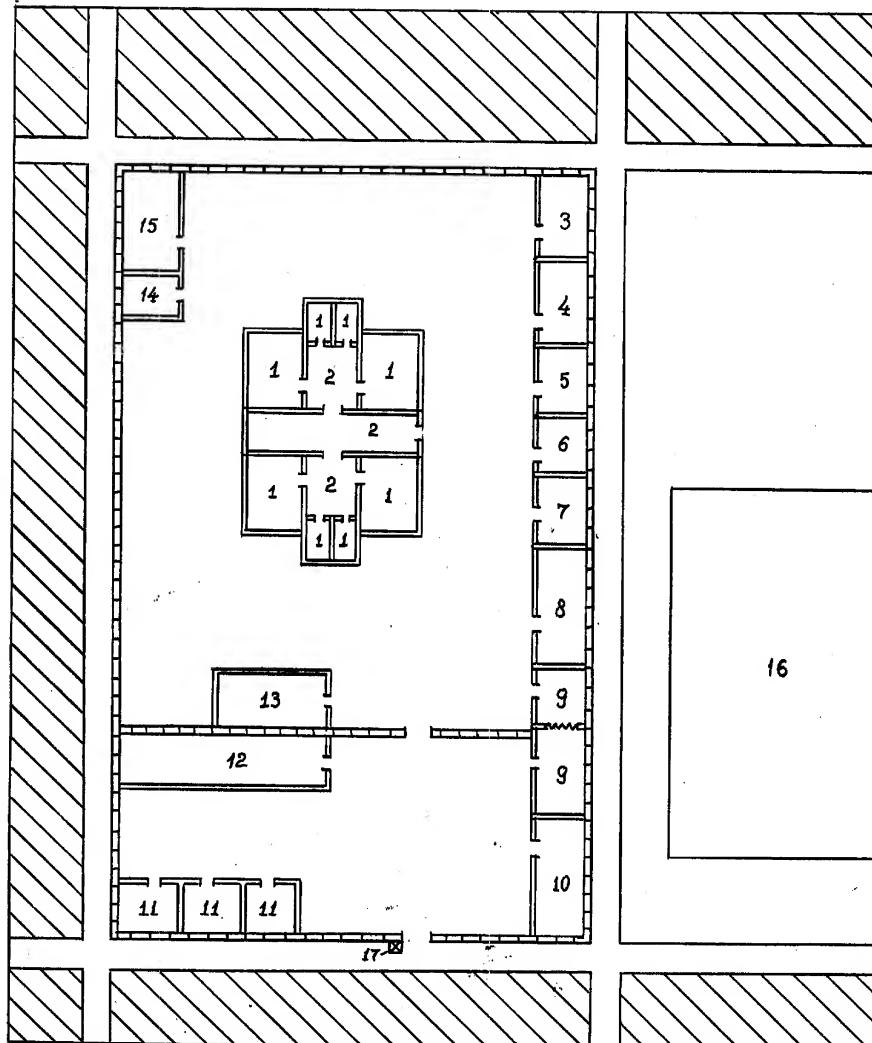
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